

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Please amend claim 10.

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. (Canceled).
7. (Canceled).
8. (Canceled).
9. (Canceled).
10. (Currently Amended) A negative electrode for a rechargeable lithium battery, ~~the in~~ which a total amount of gas is generated during initial charging, wherein the gas generated has a CO content of 30 volume % or less, and further wherein the gas generated has a H₂ content of 0.2 volume % or less, ~~the rechargeable lithium battery comprising~~ a negative electrode consisting essentially of a carbonaceous negative active material and an aqueous binder, the aqueous binder consisting essentially of a butadiene-based rubber and a cellulose-based compound, wherein

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during charging of the rechargeable lithium battery a total amount of gas is generated, the gas having a CO content of 30 volume % or less and a H₂ content of 0.2 volume % or less.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) A rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

a positive electrode;

a negative electrode consisting essentially of a carbonaceous negative active material and an aqueous binder, the aqueous binder consisting essentially of a butadiene-based rubber and a cellulose-based compound; and

a separator;

wherein a total amount of gas is generated during initial charging, wherein the gas generated has a CO content of 30 volume % or less, and further wherein the gas generated has a H₂ content of 0.2 volume % or less.